

Claims

1. A seat, especially a vehicle seat, preferably an aircraft passenger seat (10, 30), having at least one seat component such as a seat element (20), a backrest (22), or an arm rest (26), the seat as delivered having complied with specified approval regulations and accordingly having been certified, **characterized in that** there is mounted on at least one seat component so as to be stationary a data storage device (32) for storage of individual relevant data relating to the service life or certification of the respective seat and/or individual seat components, and in that the data storage device (32) may be read out by an external reading device (50).
2. The seat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data storage device (32) has a read-only memory area (34) in which in the seat as delivered data have been stored at the factory.
3. The seat as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the data storage device (32) has a random access memory area (36) in which data may be written and from which data may be read out during the service life of the seat.
4. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the data are stored permanently in the data storage device (32), in particular are non-erasable and non-rewritable.
5. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the data storage device (32) has a unique, unchangeable, and electronically readable identification number.
6. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, wherein data transmission between the data storage device (32) and the reading device (50) is effected by wireless means, in

particular wherein data may be read out of the data storage device (32) by wireless means and may be written into the data storage device (32) by wireless means.

7. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, wherein transmission of data between the data storage device (32) and the reading device (50) is effected by use of a plug connection, wirelined or wireless, in particular with a magnetic mounting or clamp mounting.
8. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the data storage device (32) operates on the transponder principle and data may be read from the data storage device (32) or data may be written into the data storage device (32) upon appropriate stimulation of the reading device (50).
9. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the energy required for operation of the data storage device (32) may be transmitted from the reading device (50) to the data storage device (32) or to a receiving unit associated with the data storage device (32) and connected to the data storage device (32).
10. The seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, wherein there is provided on the seat, in the area of the data storage device (32), a unit (66) for positioning the reading device (50), in particular a stop unit operating in conjunction with associated positioning means (68) on the reading device (50).
11. The seat as claimed in claim 10, wherein the positioning unit (66) or positioning means (68) has a magnet whereby the reading device (50) may be brought into a specifiable position in relation to the data storage device (32).

12. A reading device (50) for data transmission to a data storage device (32) mounted on a seat as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the reading device (50) has data transmission means (62) for reading the individual data relevant to the service life or certification of the respective seat and/or individual seat components, and in that the reading device (50) has storage means for intermediate storage of data read from the data storage device (32) and/or data to be written into the data storage device (32).
13. The reading device (50) as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reading device (50) has a display unit (54) for display of the data read from the data storage device (32) and/or data to be written into the data storage device (32).
14. The reading device (50) as claimed in claim 12 or 13, wherein the reading device (50) has positioning means (68) for positioning the reading device (50), in particular a reading head, in relation to the data storage device (32) for purposes of data transmission.
15. The reading device (50) as claimed in one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the intermediately stored data may be transmitted by means of a standardized interface to a computer effecting further processing.